

social hygiene news

AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

ASHA

VOL. 31, No. 6

JUNE, 1956

Board Elects Mather

Philip Mather was re-elected to his eighth term as president of the American Social Hygiene Association at ASHA's annual meeting held May 14 in New York City at the Statler Hotel.

Other key leaders elected to their posts by ASHA's Board of Directors include Mrs. David C. Prince, secretary, and Herbert I. Wood, treasurer.

The board named the Honorable Francis Payne Bolton, M.C., and Ernest Boyd MacNaughton, vice-presidents; Honorary vice-presidents are Dr. Anton J. Carlson, Charles S. Johnson, Orel J. Meyers and Dr. Stafford L. Warren.

Five new members of ASHA's Board of Directors were nominated and elected at the meeting.

They are Miriam Aldridge Sheldon, Dean of Women, University of Illinois; Dr. Malcolm Stuart McNeal Watts, president, San Francisco Health Council; Rear Admiral T. Earl Hipp, United States Navy, retired; George Andrew Buchanan, editor, *Columbia, S. C., Record*, and Mrs. Aileen Tallerdar Kulchar, chairman of the San Francisco Volunteer Bureau.

Labor and Legion Endorse VD Request

Both the AFL-CIO and the American Legion have expressed endorsement of the American Social Hygiene Association's request for a minimum \$5,000,000 VD appropriation.

In a message sent to the House Appropriations Committee, the AFL-CIO said that "while the rates of venereal diseases are currently increasing, the proposed budget for prevention represents no increase. The AFL-CIO joins with health officers in urging an appropriation of \$5,000,000."

The American Legion stated that the organization had been "shocked" to learn that 200,000 teen-age youths contracted VD last year.

"We hereby urge," the Legion resolution said, "that all possible steps be taken to reduce the incidence of venereal disease, particularly among teen-age youth, such steps to include specifically the appropriation of \$5,000,000 for VD control by the Federal government for the coming fiscal year."

ASHA Asks \$5,000,000 VD Appropriation

More syphilis has been reported in the first three-quarters of fiscal year 1956 than in the same period last year,



Philip Mather

Philip Mather, president of ASHA, said in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 8.

Joining Mr. Mather in urging a minimum appropriation of \$5,000,000 to strengthen the national VD control program were C. F. Buchanan, who testified for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, and Dr. Gurney Clark, who represented the American Venereal Disease Association.

"There is a rising tide of syphilis infection in the United States today," Mr. Mather declared.

Too often, he said, VD has been regarded as a problem for only one section of the country, a misunderstanding which has seriously damaged attempts to keep control moving as a national effort.

As shown in exhibits presented to the committee, the rise in primary and secondary syphilis included two New England states, four from the Eastern Seaboard, four from the Southeast, six from the Central states, and four from the West and Far West.

SEX EDUCATION URGED

The Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee has urged more sex education for teen-agers to offset harmful impressions they are getting from a deluge of pornographic material. Without proper sex education, the report said, youngsters have little chance for normal relationships.

San Diego Leaders Form New ASHA Affiliate

A committee of prominent San Diego, Calif., civic leaders have spearheaded formation of the San Diego Social Hygiene Association, a new affiliate of the American Social Hygiene Association.

George A. Scott, chairman of the committee, said that the group had asked affiliation with ASHA in order "to combat juvenile delinquency and social diseases and to promote family life."

Western regional representative of the American Social Hygiene Association, Donald Adams Clarke, is assist-

ing the new affiliate in organizing and planning its activities.

"Many of those in the new group have long been associated with the American Social Hygiene Association through individual membership," Mr. Scott said.

"The San Diego group is being formed to reactivate a social hygiene program necessitated by problems of civilian and military life."

Other officers of the new ASHA affiliate are Armistead B. Carter, vice-chairman; Sheldon C. Belcher, treasurer, and Mrs. Vesta Muehleisen, secretary.

Hollywood Group Names New Officers



Shown at the annual meeting of the Venereal Disease Council of Hollywood, California, are (left to right) Dr. George Fitzelle, program chairman; Dr. John Beeston, newly elected president of the Council, and Dr. Judson T. Landis, who was the principal speaker. Other new Council officers announced at the meeting were Mrs. Samuel K. Bacon, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Wood, secretary, and Mr. Brice Worley, treasurer.

Mr. Fulton Speaks

"Although family life education is still in its adolescence, like adolescence, its importance continues to increase," said Wallace Fulton at a recent meeting of the 1956 Eastern States Health Education Conference of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Mr. Fulton, a public health associate with the Equitable Life Assurance Company, cited the increasing complexities of modern life and the heavy pressures put on all members of the family, as factors responsible in the need for family life education.

He stressed the importance of seeing the family as a whole, rather than the "segmented" approach of interest in just one member or aspect of the family.

Experts To Lessen Sadism

The use of human behavior experts as consultants to lessen sadism and violence in films has been recommended by the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency.

Field to Grant Awards For Child Welfare Work

A new non-profit organization designed to recognize and reward "fundamental and imaginative" contributions to the welfare of children has been formed by Marshall Field.

Called Marshall Field Awards, Inc., the new organization will grant six to nine awards each year to individuals, organizations and communities in the fields of education, physical and mental development, social welfare and communications.

Nominations and supporting materials for this year must be submitted by October 1st. Any individual, organization, or community is eligible to submit one or more nominations.

Requests for informational brochures and nomination blanks should be addressed to Elma Phillipson, Executive Secretary, Marshall Field Awards, Inc., 598 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

Family Life Lines

Virginia

The University of Virginia, in cooperation with ASHA, launches a two-week workshop in personal and family life education on June 14. More than forty ASHA scholarships have been awarded. Mrs. Elizabeth Force, well-known family life educator and author, will direct the workshop.

Washington, D. C.

Hobart M. Corning, superintendent of schools, Washington, D. C., plans a once-a-week in-service workshop for elementary and secondary school teachers on family life education. The workshop, co-sponsored by ASHA, will meet from October 4 to November 15.

North Carolina

ASHA is granting thirty scholarships for a workshop in personal and family life education to be held at North Carolina College at Durham, June 11 to July 19. The workshop will be led by Mrs. Beauline H. DeCosta of Alabama State College.

North Dakota

North Dakota state supervisor of Home Economics Education, Miss Christine Finlayson, organized four regional meetings throughout the state on family life education. Featured speaker was Lawrence Hanson, North Dakota high school principal and executive committee member of ASHA's Midwest in-service project on family life education.

Tennessee

Nashville's Council of Community Agencies sponsored a meeting of local educators to discuss the use of ASHA's materials for education in personal and family life. Jack Druey, chairman of the Social Hygiene Committee of the council, presided.

Social Hygiene NEWS

published by

THE AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

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Cities Crack Down; Country Lures Vice

Many prostitution and other vice interests are shifting their operations outside city limits into sparsely settled areas when pressure is exerted by local authorities, according to the *National Sheriff*, official organ of the National Sheriffs' Association.

The publication's editors based much of their information on regular reports from the American Social Hygiene Association, whose Legal and Social Protection Division makes prostitution surveys upon requests of sheriffs and other responsible officials.

Calling attention to the success of the "all out" effort against prostitution and its contribution to VD carried on in World War II, the *National Sheriff* warns that prostitution is unlawful whether our country is enjoying peace or is at war.

"We cannot tolerate exposure to disease for the hundreds of thousands of young men who are in military training today," the publication said.

Delinquency Rises, Children's Chief Reports

Juvenile delinquency increased 9% in 1955, according to Dr. Martha M. Eliot, Chief, Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

While the 9% increase in juvenile court cases was occurring, Dr. Eliot said, the child population in the 10-17 age group (generally the ages within jurisdiction of the juvenile court) went up only about 3%.

Data gathered by the Children's Bureau would indicate that some half a million children were brought to juvenile courts for delinquency last year, Dr. Eliot declared.

She pointed out that the offenses of some children who get into trouble with the police are not considered serious enough to warrant court action.

The latest Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report shows an 11.4% increase in police arrests of young persons under eighteen in 1955 as compared with 1954. Their report was based on data from 1,162 cities.

Vandow Says VD Tests Save Lives

Because of premarital blood testing in New York City, 285 children will be born healthy who otherwise might have died or been born syphilitic, Dr. Jules E. Vandow, the city's VD control officer, predicts.

Dr. Vandow bases his estimate on a recent survey of 18,523 premarital blood tests taken in New York City, as well as on studies done by other VD experts.

The blood tests, taken in the first three months of 1956, unearthed 185 new untreated cases of syphilis. Another 164 cases of syphilis with a previous treatment record were found.

Dr. Vandow estimates that 740 new cases of syphilis will be discovered through health department sources in the course of the year.

If the number of new untreated cases found through private laboratory tests are added, the total amounts to 1,056 new cases of syphilis which will be discovered by premarital blood tests in 1956.

According to a cooperative clinic study reported in the February 1956 *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 31% of women with early syphilis bore syphilitic infants. Another study points out that only about 17% of babies born to mothers with latent syphilis were born healthy.

Dr. Vandow's findings are in line with the opinion of a majority of state health officers, recently polled by the American Social Hygiene Association, the Association of State and Territo-



Dr. Jules E. Vandow

rial Health Officers and the American Venereal Disease Association.

Of forty state health officers responding to the poll, 90% listed wider venereal disease casefindings as one of the advantages of premarital blood testing under state law.

Grown-Ups Couldn't Take Teen Traumas

It's a good thing that adolescence and its problems belong to youth because most adults could not tolerate its pressures.

This statement was made by Mrs. Esther E. Sweeney, Director of ASHA's Community Services, in a recent talk before the VD Control Division, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

"The adolescent is not only undergoing radical physical changes with consequent emotional strains, but he also lives in a world of adults who frequently intensify problems of growing up," Mrs. Sweeney said.

"Even though the adolescent is almost by definition inconsistent, adults often expect him to be uniform in his conduct," she declared.

"If he is all poise and sophistication today, tomorrow when he's just a

hobbledehoy gamin he lives in a world of cold disapproval."

Although the adolescent wants and demands independence, grownups often forget that he may also unconsciously want the dependence of childhood and may long for guidance and limitations.

To add to his problems, Mrs. Sweeney said, the adolescent must cope with the opinions of his age-mates who themselves are confused and at various stages of maturity.

That most adolescents get safely through this difficult period, she said, is due to the mutual love and trust usually built in the past between children and parents.

"Today's adolescent lives in a more candid family climate than many of us did," Mrs. Sweeney concluded.

"Both parents and children are taking a look at their common problems and working to solve them."

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Reading Suggestions for the Entire Family . . .

PAMPHLETS

- THE GIFT OF LIFE.
25¢. Picture booklet to help parents answer questions about being born.
- ENJOY YOUR CHILD—AGES 1, 2 AND 3.
25¢. Emphasizes normal parent-child relationships.
- HOW TO DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN.
25¢. Ideas and suggestions for parents of pre-adolescents.
- SEX BEHAVIOR AND SEX INTEREST IN CHILDREN.
10¢. Questions asked by children from early childhood through adolescence.
- KEEPING UP WITH TEEN-AGERS.
25¢. Helps you understand the problems your teen-agers face.
- YOUR OWN STORY.
50¢. How a baby develops and is born. To be read by parents and children jointly.
- LIFE WITH BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
50¢. Helpful hints for boys and girls aged 10 to 13.
- UNDERSTANDING SEX.
50¢. Practical pointers for teen-agers.
- DATES AND DATING.
25¢. Dating behavior for teen-age girls.
- BEHAVIOR IN COURTSHIP.
5¢. Do's and don'ts for young men and women.

BOOKS

- THE WONDERFUL STORY OF HOW YOU WERE BORN.
(Gruenberg.) \$2.00. Illustrated. For boys and girls aged 10 to 14.
- THE ADOLESCENT.
(Farnham.) \$3.00. Short, readable discussion of adolescence. For parents.
- FACTS OF LIFE AND LOVE FOR TEEN-AGERS.
(Duvall.) \$3.50. Explains the physical aspects of growing up.
- THE HAPPY FAMILY.
(Levy & Munroe.) \$3.50. Emphasizes the emotional development of the individual and its effects on his marriage. For young adults.

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